

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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EPA-01 AID-05 INT-05 OES-07 /055 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4870

INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMCONSUL HERMOSILLO POUCH

AMCONSUL CIUDAD JUAREZ POUCH

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E.O. 11651: N/A

TAGS: SENV, MX, OCON

SUBJECT: U.S.-MEXICO BILATERAL DESERTIFICATION RELATIONS

REF: MEXICO 1460

ALSO FOR NSF AND AGRICULTURE

1. FURTHER TO REFTEL, S&T COUNSELOR TOOK FIRST OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS TUCSON RESULTS AND FUTURE COOPERATION WITH CONACYT INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS DIRECTOR LIC. ALFREDO RAMIREZ ARAIZA, WHO HEADED MEXICAN DEL TO TUCSON MEETING. SR. DUARTE FROM SRE TECH. COOPERATION DEPT. WAS PRESENT FOR THE DISCUSSIONS. RAMIREZ LAUNCHED INTO LENGTHY EXPLANATION OF MEXICO'S PREPARATIONS FOR DESERTIFICATION CONFERENCE AND TERMED TUCSON MEETING AS ONE OF MOST USEFUL MEXICO-U.S. BILATERAL MEETINGS HE HAS ATTENDED. IT BECAME APPARENT THAT RAMIREZ THOUGHT IT USEFUL PRINCIPALLY BECAUSE HE FELT MEXICAN SIDE WAS ABLE TO EDUCATE U.S. SIDE ON THE DESERTIFICATION RESULTS WHICH HAVE OCCURRED IN MEXICO AS A RESULT

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OF ACTIONS OF MNC'S ETC. HE DID FEEL IT USEFUL TO GO OVER THE NAIROBI AGENDA WITH U.S.-SIDE AND REACH UNDERSTANDING RE POINTS OF AGREEMENT AND DISAGREEMENT. RAMIREZ GAVE US COPY (IN SPANISH) OF HIS REPORT OF TUSCON MEETING. (REPORT HAS A DECIDEDLY MEXICAN FLAVOR--COPIES CAN BE PROVIDED ON REQUEST.)

2. RE FUTURE ACTION, RAMIREZ EXPECTS THAT FOLLOWING DESERTIFICATION CONFERENCE, MEXICO (CONACYT, WITH SRE APPROVAL) WILL PROPOSE A JOINT U.S.-MEXICAN WORKING GROUP TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION. MEXICO'S INTEREST IS PARTICULARLY RELATED TO THE DESERT AREAS OF SONORA AND CHIHUAHUA, WHICH SHARE COMMON PROBLEMS WITH THE U.S. SIDE. THE GROUP WOULD MEET IN A DESERT REGION AND WOULD DEVELOP CONCRETE PROJECTS TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION. RAMIREZ ENVISIONS THE GROUP AS HAVING A "TECHNICAL CHARACTER," I.E. WITHOUT POWER OF NEGOTIATION OR DECISION, BUT TO ACT AS MORE OF A CONSULTING GROUP. IT WOULD CONCENTRATE ON THE FRINGE AREAS OF THE DESERT WHERE, RAMIREZ SAYS, THERE HAVE BEEN MANY CASES OF PLANTING THE WRONG CROPS (DUE TO ECONOMIC REASONS) AND USE OF THE WRONG TECHNOLOGY. RAMIREZ ENVISIONS SUCH A GROUP OPERATING UNDER THE AEGIS OF THE S&T BILATERAL, OR (IN THE CASE OF GUAYULE, ETC.) PERHAPS UNDER THE DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE--CONACYT MOU (WHICH IS ALSO UNDER THE S&T BILATERAL). THOMPSON

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
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